

Fremont Conservation Commission
04-21-08 Minutes



Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of April 21, 2008
Approved May 19, 2008

Present: Chairman Jack Karcz, Members Janice O'Brien, Tina Sturdivant, Pat deBeer and Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Chrm. Karcz opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

MINUTES

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2008 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Mbr. Sturdivant with unanimous favorable vote.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2008 non-public meeting #1 as written. The motion was seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

Mbr. Sturdivant made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2008 non-public meeting #2 as written. The motion was seconded by Mbr. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

HJALMER ANDERSON
Map 6 Lot 060

Chrm. Karcz said that he has not received a copy of the Easement draft for the Anderson property at Map 6 Lot 060. Mbr. O'Brien reported that she has spoken with surveyor Tom Brouillette who related that the cost to survey the designate easement area of the Anderson property would be about \$1,500. The boundaries have already been surveyed.

Mbr. Sturdivant asked if the Conservation Commission has to have the property evaluated. She feels that the Commission needs to be consistent in Easement purchasing by either evaluating all easement properties or none of them. Mbr. O'Brien stated that because we are not purchasing the property with bond money we do not necessarily need to evaluate it. Chrm. Karcz stated that Mr. Anderson offered this Easement prior to the forming of the Open Space Committee and following a brief discussion it was generally agreed that the property will be evaluated at the April 22, 2008 Open Space meeting.

Mbr. O'Brien further reported that she has spoken with Mary Currier at the Rockingham County Conservation District to see if they would be willing to hold the Easement. Mrs. Currier indicated that

Fremont Conservation Commission

04-21-08 Minutes

the RCCD is willing to hold the Easement, there would be no legal fees as their attorney will draft the document, they will do the recording of the Easement deed, and the minimum stewardship fee is \$2,500. The Conservation Commission would pay for recording the plan at the Registry of Deeds, which would be minimal. Mbr. O'Brien said that the total cost would be approximately \$4,500.

Mbr. Sturdivant made the motion that the Conservation Commission fund up to \$4,500 for the fees associated with the Anderson Conservation easement contingent upon favorable ranking using the open space criteria at the April 22, 2008 Open Space Committee meeting. Funding to come from the Current Use account.

Motion seconded by Chrm. Karcz. Following a discussion relative to the total cost there was a unanimous favorable vote.

PRIME WETLAND

Chrm. Karcz reported that Mrs. Bolduc has contacted Mr. West to find out what the process is for DES to accept the Prime Wetlands designation. Mr. West related that the process now is for the data to be digitized, Dollard Associates to shape the files and produce the information onto the tax maps. Mr. West said that once this is done he will take the maps to DES for approval. Mr. West also related in that conversation that when Spruce Swamp was done he did the study and sent the information to Don Dollard who then had his people digitize it to include it on the Tax Map. Mr. West related to Mrs. Bolduc that he now has the ability to digitize the data depicting more accurate boundaries so he could do the digitizing, send the results to Mr. Dollard to shape the files and Mr. Dollard would produce the Tax Map. He suggested for the Conservation Commission to get a written quote from Dollard Associates and he would do one, too. He was also going to contact Mr. Dollard to let him know that he (Mark West) could do the digitizing. Once everything is done Mr. West will take the finished project to DES for approval, which he says that they never deny.

Mrs. Bolduc said that she told Mr. West that there is a possible copyright issue and that the Commission may want to wait until after the April 17th Selectmen's meeting with Mr. Dollard, Planning Board Chairman Roger Barham and RPC Circuit Rider David West before doing anything.

The Members agreed to ask Mr. Dollard for two quotes; one to digitize the Prime Wetland aerial information and put it on the Tax Map and one for just putting it on the Tax Map if the digitizing was done by someone else. It was also agreed to ask Mr. West for a quote for digitizing the information only.

There was a general conversation relative to the importance of being able to digitize the maps to use the information for future GIS data. The Members agreed to find out roughly what it would cost to establish a database.

MARK PRESCOTT

Eagle Scout Mark Prescott met with the Commission relative to his Eagle Scout project. He showed the Members his drawn plans for two 5' x 3' x 4" bulletin board type kiosks for maps of the trails, sights, etc., one for Glen Oakes and one for Oak Ridge. The roof will be 3' deep. The Members were

Fremont Conservation Commission

04-21-08 Minutes

very pleased with the project. Mr. Prescott will meet with the Building Official to be sure that this construction meets building codes and ordinances.

After Mr. Prescott left the meeting there was a conversation relative to the Commission funding some portion of the project and it was agreed that since this is his project, he would need to request funding assistance if he needs it.

OAK RIDGE

Mbr. O'Brien asked if there was a project that the Boy Scouts could do this spring. It was noted that there is some ground work to be done at Oak Ridge and Mbr. O'Brien stated that she will forward that information to the Scouts.

TURTLE WALK

There was a discussion relative to where to conduct a "turtle walk" in Fremont with possible locations being the Rail Trail and areas of Glen Oakes and Oak Ridge. Mbr. O'Brien stated that Laura Deming of the Audubon Society can lead the "turtle walk". Mbr. O'Brien stated that she hopes the Open Space members will also get involved.

GLEN OAKES FOREST & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mrs. Bolduc reported that she recently spoke with Forester Charlie Moreno via phone who suggested that the Glen Oakes Town Forest boundary lines be blazed and painted for more permanent line protection. Mr. Moreno also questioned whether there is an endowment for the Town Forest. He has indicated that the revenue from the Forest will be minimal for some time, but there are projects such as plantings that will need to be done. Mbr. O'Brien said that Mr. Moreno mentioned planting chestnut trees. There was a conversation relative to how much the plantings would cost and who would do the planting. It was agreed that this would be discussed with Mr. Moreno when he meets with the Commission on May 19, 2008.

ERLAC

Vernal Pool Workshop

Mbr. Sturdivant reported that the Vernal Pool workshop date is May 10, 2008 at the Raymond Middle School from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Signs

Mbr. Sturdivant said that she and Road Agent Guerwood Holmes will set up the protected river sign at the rail trail.

COMPREHENSIVE SHORELAND PROTECTION ACT (CSPA).

Mbr. deBeer reported that the House Resources, Recreation and Development committee will vote tomorrow (April 22, 2008) on the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA). This would be whether to keep its April 1 effective date or be repealed and reenacted with a later effective date.

Fremont Conservation Commission

04-21-08 Minutes

GLEN OAKES

Mbr. O'Brien stated that the Open Space and Conservation Commission Members went to Glen Oaks on April 19, 2008 to retape the trees along the boundary lines. Mbr. deBeer presented a printout showing a section of the bounds for the Members to look at. There was a conversation relative to the corner bounds and Mbr. O'Brien said that she will talk with Surveyor Tom Brouillette about installing the granite bounds that are not in place.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP)

Chrm. Karcz reported that Mrs. Bolduc spoke with Glenn Greenwood, Senior Planner with RPC, and explained that the Planning Board was asking for clarification of the information that the Commission put in the CIP worksheet. She explained that information submitted to Mr. Greenwood and he advised that all the Commission can do is to submit the projected spending and revenue analysis, which is what they have done. Mrs. Bolduc said she will report this to the Planning Board also.

MASTER PLAN & ZONING ORDINANCE

Mbr. deBeer reported for clarification, she has found that the Chester project of comparing their Master Plan to their Zoning Ordinance that was mentioned at last week's meeting was funded by NH Fish & Game Department and the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust. These organizations also funded similar projects in Hooksett and Salisbury. CTAP methodology and the CTAP template were used so she thinks that it was done under the umbrella of CTAP. A consultant from NH Audubon worked with members from the Town Boards to do the study at a cost of \$6000. The consultant used CommunityViz software, which is an extension to ArcGIS (i.e. must have ArcGIS to use CommunityViz). Mbr. deBeer related that GRANIT has additional good information on their website at www.granit.unh.edu.

CARBON DYNAMICS STUDY

UNH

Mbr. O'Brien reported that she received correspondence from Rich MacLean, a research associate at UNH, stating that he is working for Dr. Ducey and Dr. Frey of the Natural Resources Department on a study of carbon dynamics in the Lamprey River watershed. In his correspondence Mr. MacLean stated that this study is going to involve comparing carbon storage in the soil and the above ground flora between forest fragments of different sizes and to establish long term monitoring plots to help detect changes in carbon storage over extended periods of time. He added that he is looking into the possibility of establishing long term plots on conserved lands to be sure that they won't be paved over in 10 years. Mr. MacLean inquired about the possibility of establishing such a plot within the Tuck Easement. He related that the plot itself would involve the digging of a quantitative soil pit once on establishment, minimal flagging, and possibly some small leaf fall traps. Sampling through the years will involve taking measurements of trees, collecting leaf and branch fall samples, and collecting small diameter soil cores; overall our goal is to disturb the landscape as little as possible.

Mbr. O'Brien said that the Conservation Commission is Mr. MacLean's first contact and he will need to also contact the Tuck Woods Association. She reviewed the Easement and said that she does not know if study can be done because of the restriction of use limitation #3 as shown on page 3 of the

Fremont Conservation Commission

04-21-08 Minutes

Easement. Chrm. Karcz felt that one of the questions would be how big the soil pit is in area and in depth.

It was noted that Mr. MacLean would need the permission of the Tuck Woods Association as the landowners and the Conservation Commission as the holder of the Easement. Mbr. Sturdivant said that more of the procedure should be known, such as how big an area of excavation would be and how often will samples be done.

CONSERVATION MATERIALS

Mbr. deBeer said that at the CSPA workshop she and Chrm. Karcz attended, one of the presenters from UNH Cooperative Extension mentioned a new book for ideas for landscaping near the edge of a waterfront lot called Landscaping at the Water's Edge: An Ecological Approach - A Manual for NH Landowners and Landscapers (\$20). She showed the Members her copy. Mbr. deBeer also shared a copy of Integrated Landscaping: Following Nature's Lead with the Members and they agreed that the Commission should order a reference copy for the Conservation Commission and Planning Board to share and one for the Public Library.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to purchase two Landscaping at the Water's Edge: An Ecological Approach - A Manual for NH Landowners and Landscapers and two Integrated Landscaping: Following Nature's Lead with the funding to be taken from the projects line of the current budget. Motion seconded by Mbr. Sturdivant with unanimous favorable vote.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

1. Notice of the June 12, 2008 Annual Meeting of the Rockingham Planning Commission at the Atkinson, NH Resort and Country Club.
2. Notice of the May 5, 2008 NH Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act workshop at the Brentwood, NH Community Center.

Mbr. Sturdivant made the motion to adjourn at 9:55 pm.
Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc